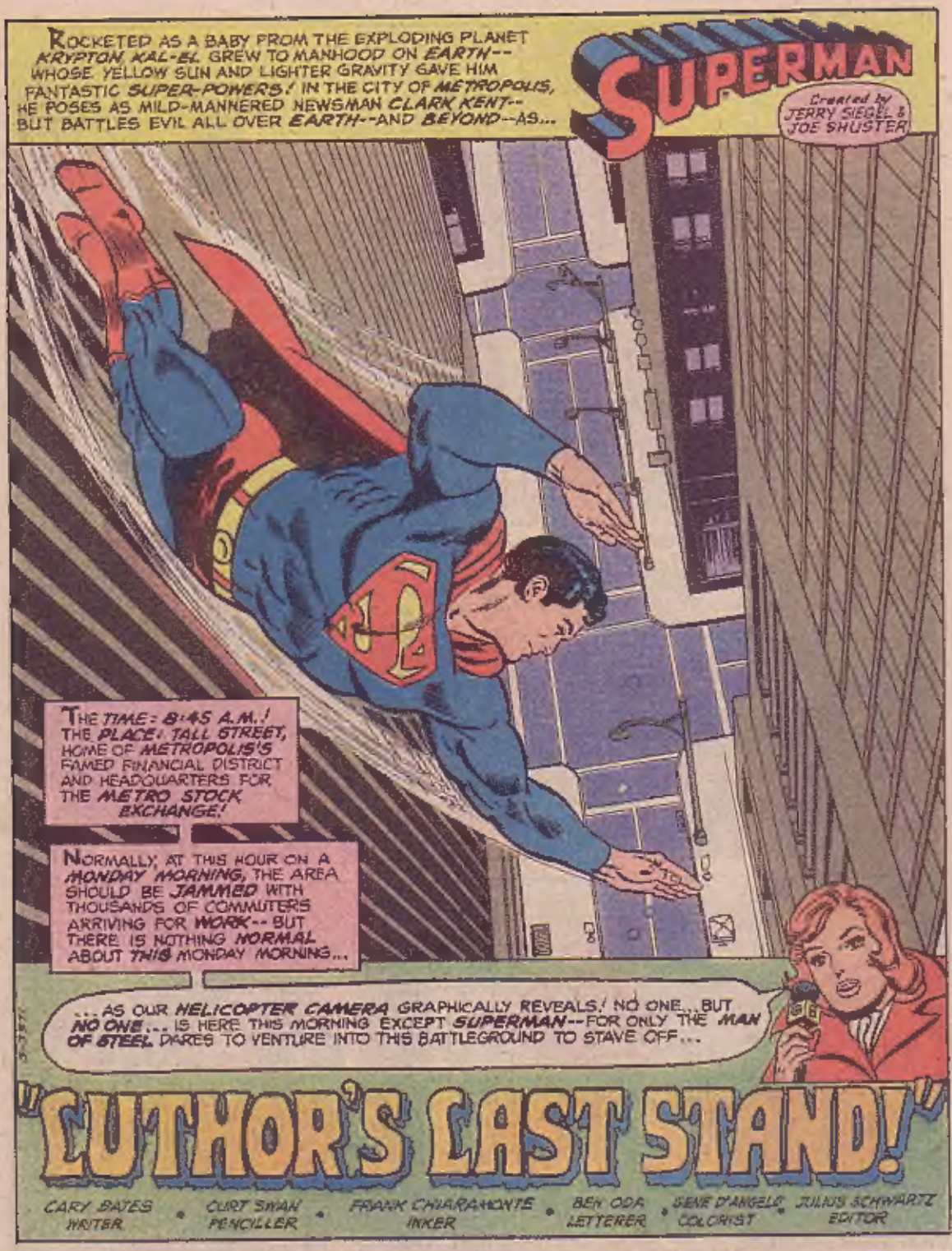
WHY DOES SUPERMAN LEAVE HIS ARCH-FOE TO FACE SUDDEN DEATH IN... "LEX LUTHOR'S LAST STAND!"
40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 510
AUG.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERMAN STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
SUPERMAN-- HELP ME! YOU'VE SWORN TO SAVE ALL LIFE--
EXCEPT YOURS-- LUTHOR!
ANDRU J. GIORDANO


ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE TIME: 8:45 A.M.! THE PLACE: TALL STREET, HOME OF METROPOLIS'S FAMED FINANCIAL DISTRICT AND HEADQUARTERS FOR THE METRO STOCK EXCHANGE!
NORMALLY, AT THIS HOUR ON A MONDAY MORNING, THE AREA SHOULD BE JAMMED WITH THOUSANDS OF COMMUTERS ARRIVING FOR WORK--BUT THERE IS NOTHING NORMAL ABOUT THIS MONDAY MORNING...
...AS OUR HELICOPTER CAMERA GRAPHICALLY REVEALS! NO ONE...BUT NO ONE... IS HERE THIS MORNING EXCEPT SUPERMAN--FOR ONLY THE MAN OF STEEL DARES TO VENTURE INTO THIS BATTLEGROUND TO STAVE OFF...
"LUTHOR'S LAST STAND!"
CARY BATES WRITER • CURT SWAN PENCILLER • FRANK CHIARAMONTE INKER • BEN ODA LETTERER • GENE D'ANGELO COLORIST • JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR

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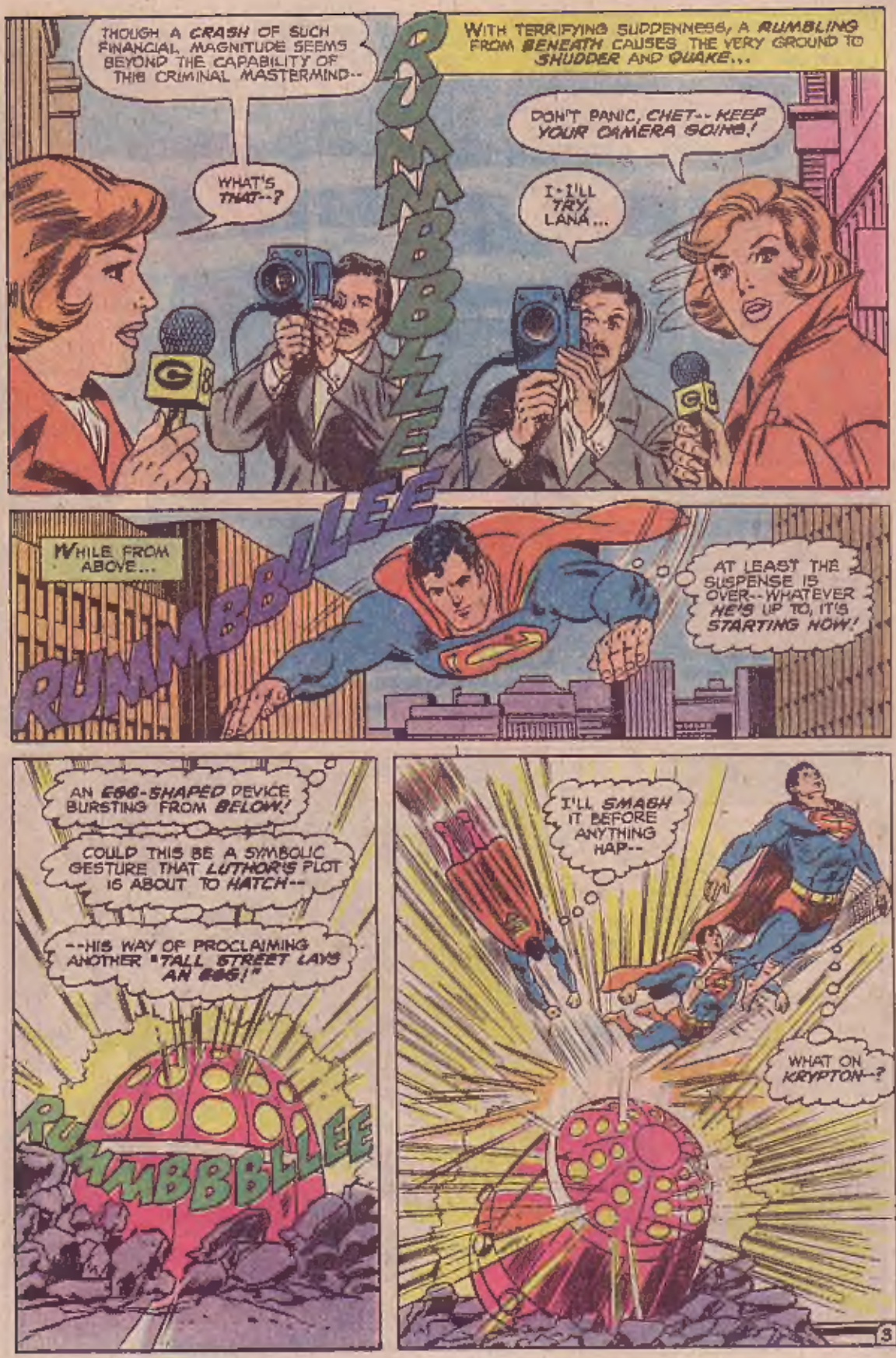
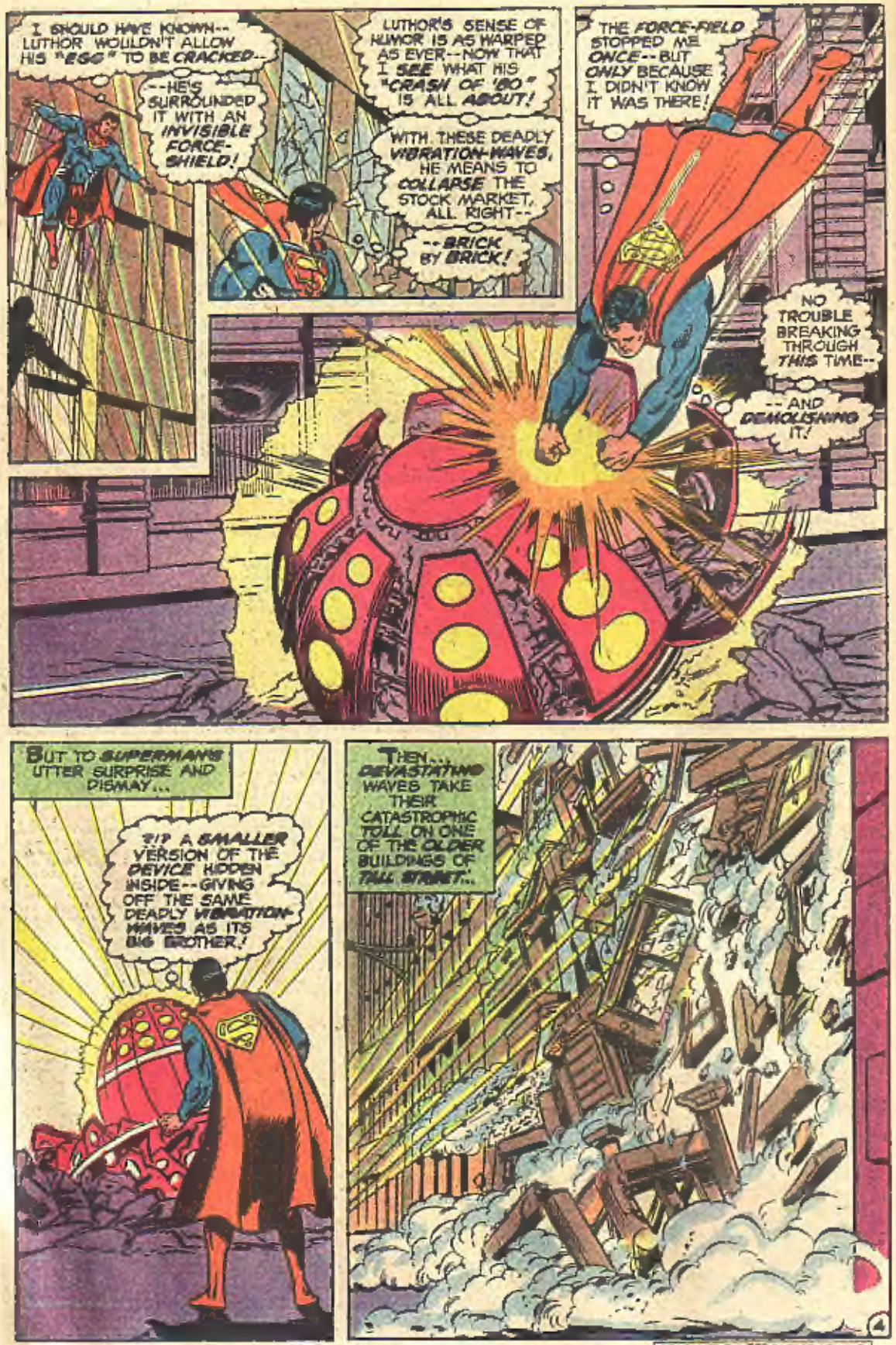
IT WAS JUST 12 HOURS AGO THAT THE NOTORIOUS LEX LUTHOR TELEPHONED THE MAYOR.., ANNOUNCING THAT THIS MORNING HE WOULD SET OFF THE "CRASH OF '80"--
--A STOCK MARKET COLLAPSE THAT WOULD MAKE THE CRASH OF '29 SEEM LIKE A "DULL THUD"!
IF ANYONE ELSE BUT LUTHOR HAD MADE SUCH A BIZARRE BOAST, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PASSED OFF AS THE RAVINGS OF A MERE CRANK!
BUT PAST EXPERIENCE WITH THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL HAS LEFT AUTHORITIES ONLY ONE POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION--
--THE COMPLETE EVACUATION OF THE ENTIRE TALL STREET AREA! EVERY BUILDING, EVERY OFFICE IN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT WAS SEARCHED AND DOUBLE-SEARCHED LAST NIGHT BY THE NATIONAL GUARD!
THE POLICE HAVE SEALED OFF THE AREA--
TALL STREET RETREAT
--AND THE ONLY LIVING ENTITY NOW WITHIN THESE LIMITS IS THE MAN OF STEEL--
--TIRELESSLY PATROLLING THIS FIVE-BLOCK AREA CURSED BY THE OMINOUS SHADOW OF LEX LUTHOR!
SINCE THE BREAK OF DAWN, HE HAS MAINTAINED THIS LONELY SUPER-VIGIL, HIS TELESCOPIC X-RAY EYES CONSTANTLY SCANNING BELOW FOR SOME SIGN, SOME CLUE THAT MIGHT ALERT HIM AS TO WHAT TO EXPECT!
2


THOUGH A CRASH OF SUCH FINANCIAL MAGNITUDE SEEMS BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF THIS CRIMINAL MASTERMIND--
WHAT'S THAT--?
RUMBBLLEE
WITH TERRIFYING SUDDENNESS, A RUMBLING FROM BENEATH CAUSES THE VERY GROUND TO SHUDDER AND QUAKE...
DON'T PANIC, CHET--KEEP YOUR CAMERA GOING!
I-I'LL TRY, LANA...
WHILE FROM ABOVE...
RUMMBBLLEE
AT LEAST THE SUSPENSE IS OVER--WHATEVER HE'S UP TO, IT'S STARTING NOW!
AN EGG-SHAPED DEVICE BURSTING FROM BELOW!
COULD THIS BE A SYMBOLIC GESTURE THAT LUTHOR'S PLOT IS ABOUT TO HATCH--
--HIS WAY OF PROCLAIMING ANOTHER "TALL STREET LAYS AN EGG!"
RUMMBBBLLEE
I'LL SMASH IT BEFORE ANYTHING HAP--
WHAT ON KRYPTON--?
3


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN-- LUTHOR WOULDN'T ALLOW HIS "EGG" TO BE CRACKED--
--HE'S SURROUNDED IT WITH AN INVISIBLE FORCE-SHIELD!
LUTHOR'S SENSE OF HUMOR IS AS WARPED AS EVER--NOW THAT I SEE WHAT HIS "CRASH OF '80" IS ALL ABOUT!
WITH THESE DEADLY VIBRATION-WAVES, HE MEANS TO COLLAPSE THE STOCK MARKET, ALL RIGHT--
--BRICK BY BRICK!
THE FORCE-FIELD STOPPED ME ONCE--BUT ONLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS THERE!
NO TROUBLE BREAKING THROUGH THIS TIME--
--AND DEMOLISHING IT!
BUT TO SUPERMAN'S UTTER SURPRISE AND DISMAY...
?!? A SMALLER VERSION OF THE DEVICE HIDDEN INSIDE--GIVING OFF THE SAME DEADLY VIBRATION-WAVES AS ITS BIG BROTHER!
THEN... DEVASTATING WAVES TAKE THEIR CATASTROPHIC TOLL ON ONE OF THE OLDER BUILDINGS OF TALL STREET...
4
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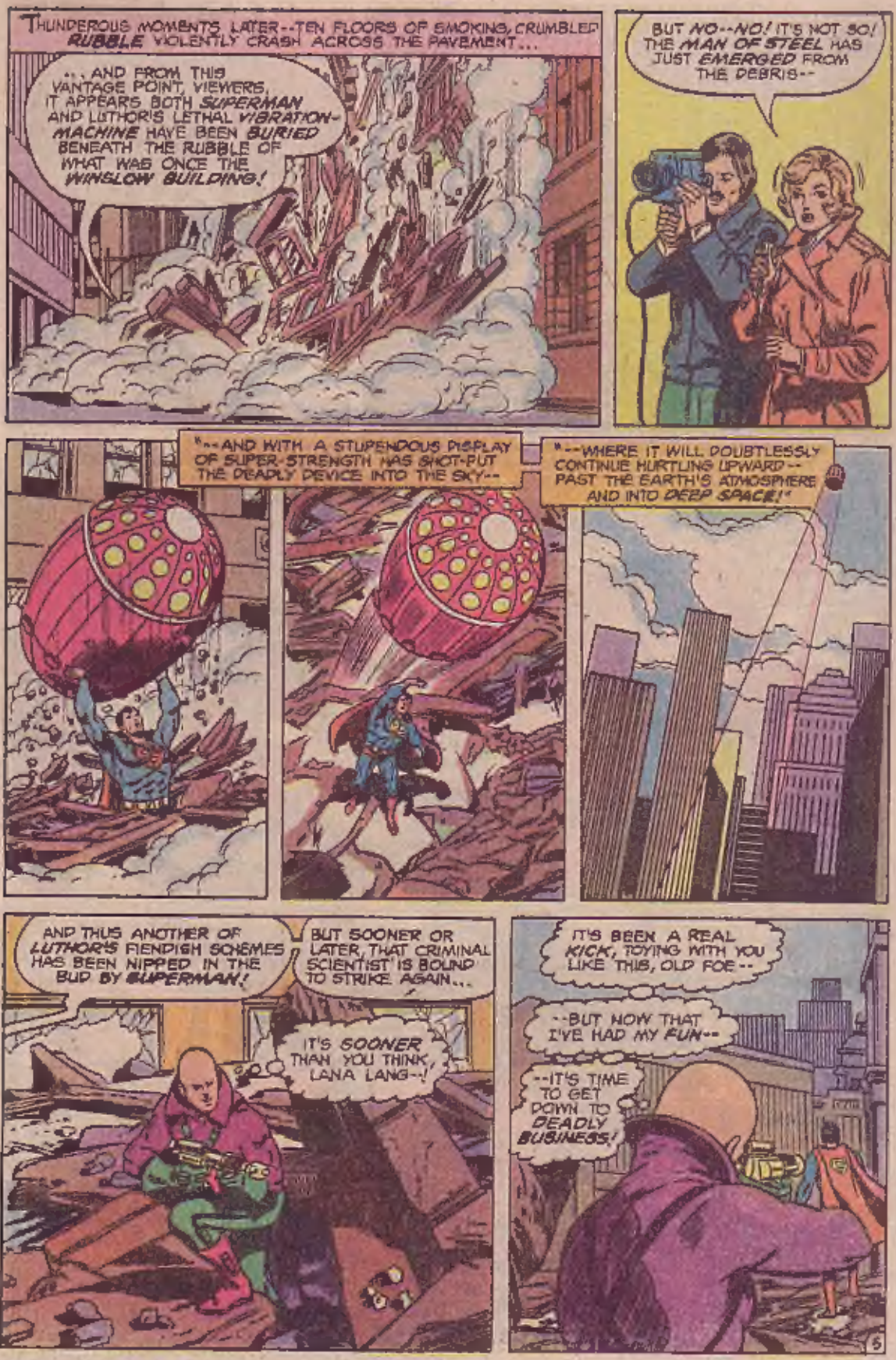
THUNDEROUS MOMENTS LATER--TEN FLOORS OF SMOKING, CRUMBLED RUBBLE VIOLENTLY CRASH ACROSS THE PAVEMENT...
...AND FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, VIEWERS, IT APPEARS BOTH SUPERMAN AND LUTHOR'S LETHAL VIBRATION-MACHINE HAVE BEEN BURIED BENEATH THE RUBBLE OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE WINSLOW BUILDING!
BUT NO--NO! IT'S NOT SO! THE MAN OF STEEL HAS JUST EMERGED FROM THE DEBRIS--
"--AND WITH A STUPENDOUS DISPLAY OF SUPER-STRENGTH HAS SHOT-PUT THE DEADLY DEVICE INTO THE SKY--
"--WHERE IT WILL DOUBTLESSLY CONTINUE HURTLING UPWARD -- PAST THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AND INTO DEEP SPACE!"
AND THUS ANOTHER OF LUTHOR'S FIENDISH SCHEMES HAS BEEN NIPPED IN THE BUD BY SUPERMAN!
BUT SOONER OR LATER, THAT CRIMINAL SCIENTIST IS BOUND TO STRIKE AGAIN...
IT'S SOONER THAN YOU THINK, LANA LANG--!
IT'S BEEN A REAL KICK, TOYING WITH YOU LIKE THIS, OLD FOE--
--BUT NOW THAT I'VE HAD MY FUN--
--IT'S TIME TO GET DOWN TO DEADLY BUSINESS!
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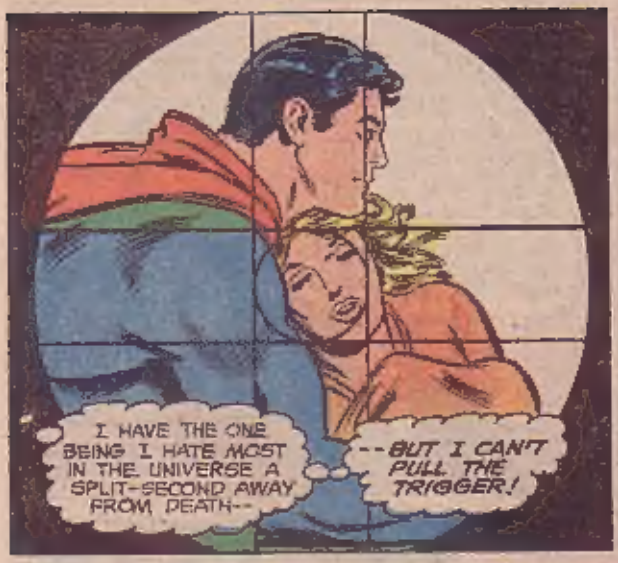
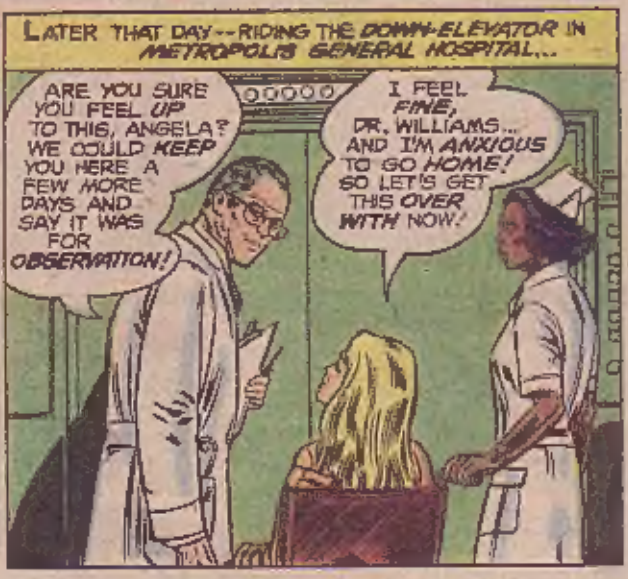
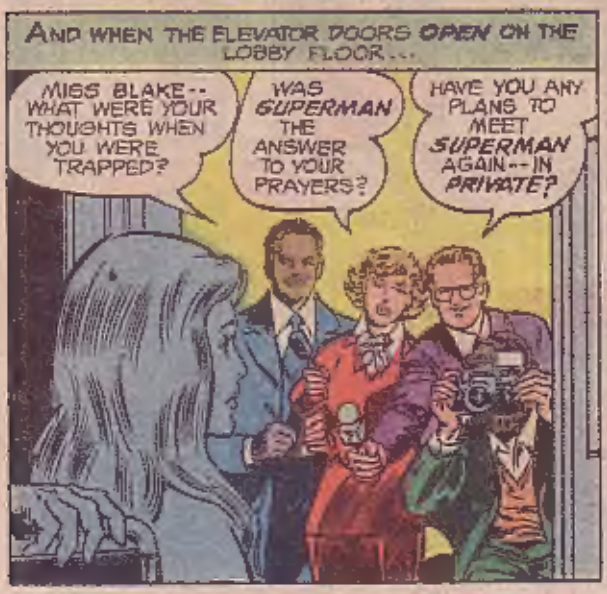
HOLD STILL, BLAST YOU, SUPERMAN--!
JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO PULL MY TRIGGER--HE TAKES OFF LIKE A SHOT INTO THAT DEBRIS!
WHAT EVER PROMPTED HIM TO DO THAT?
THIS ENTIRE SCENARIO WAS SCIENTIFICALLY ENGINEERED TO CULMINATE WITH THE CLIMACTIC MOMENT OF SUPERMAN BEING ANNIHILATED BY MY ULTIMATE WEAPON!
MY MEGA-COMPUTER PROJECTED A 99.97% PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS... YET SOMETHING WENT WRONG!
A TICK LATER, THE BALD-PATED GENIUS SEES THE "SOMETHING" WITH HIS OWN EYES...
SO THAT WAS IT--A WOMAN WAS OVERLOOKED DURING THE EVACUATION AND LEFT TRAPPED IN THE BASEMENT OF THAT BUILDING!
SUPERMAN'S SUPER-SENSES MUST'VE CAUGHT HER HEARTBEAT OR BREATHING!
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT ANOTHER CRACK AT HIM!
TOO BAD HE CAN'T APPRECIATE I'M LETTING HIM DIE A HERO-- TRYING TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THAT WOMAN!
AND TOO BAD SHE HAS TO SUFFER HIS MISERABLE FATE ...
GASP! HOW CAN THIS BE--?!?

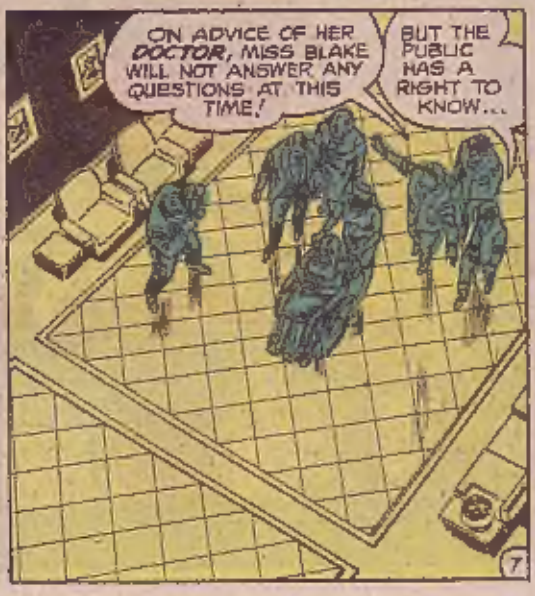

I HAVE THE ONE BEING I HATE MOST IN THE UNIVERSE A SPLIT-SECOND AWAY FROM DEATH--
--BUT I CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER!

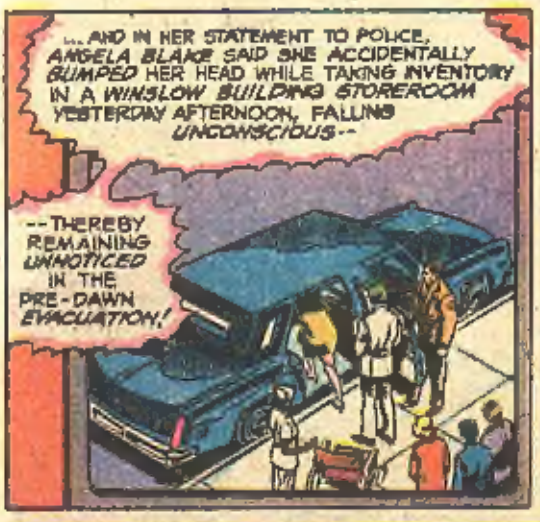
THAT DELAY COST ME--HE'S OUT OF RANGE!
I BLEW IT-- AND WHAT'S EVEN WORSE--

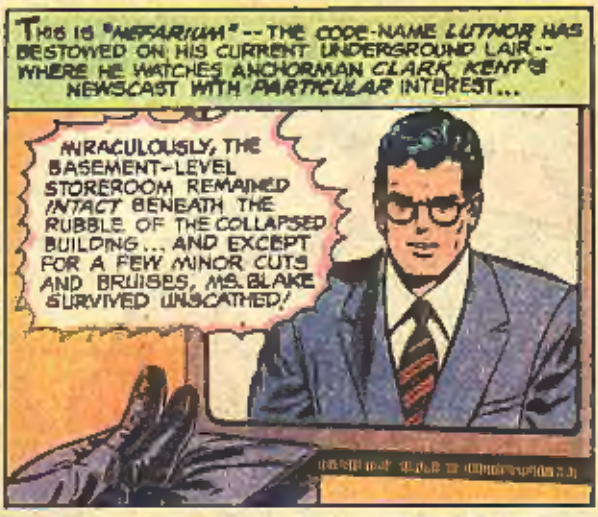
--I DON'T KNOW WHY! IT'S LIKE SOMEONE'S PUT THE HEX ON LEX LUTHOR!


LATER THAT DAY--RIDING THE DOWN-ELEVATOR IN METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL...
ARE YOU SURE YOU FEEL UP TO THIS, ANGELA? WE COULD KEEP YOU HERE A FEW MORE DAYS AND SAY IT WAS FOR OBSERVATION!
I FEEL FINE, DR. WILLIAMS... AND I'M ANXIOUS TO GO HOME! SO LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH NOW!

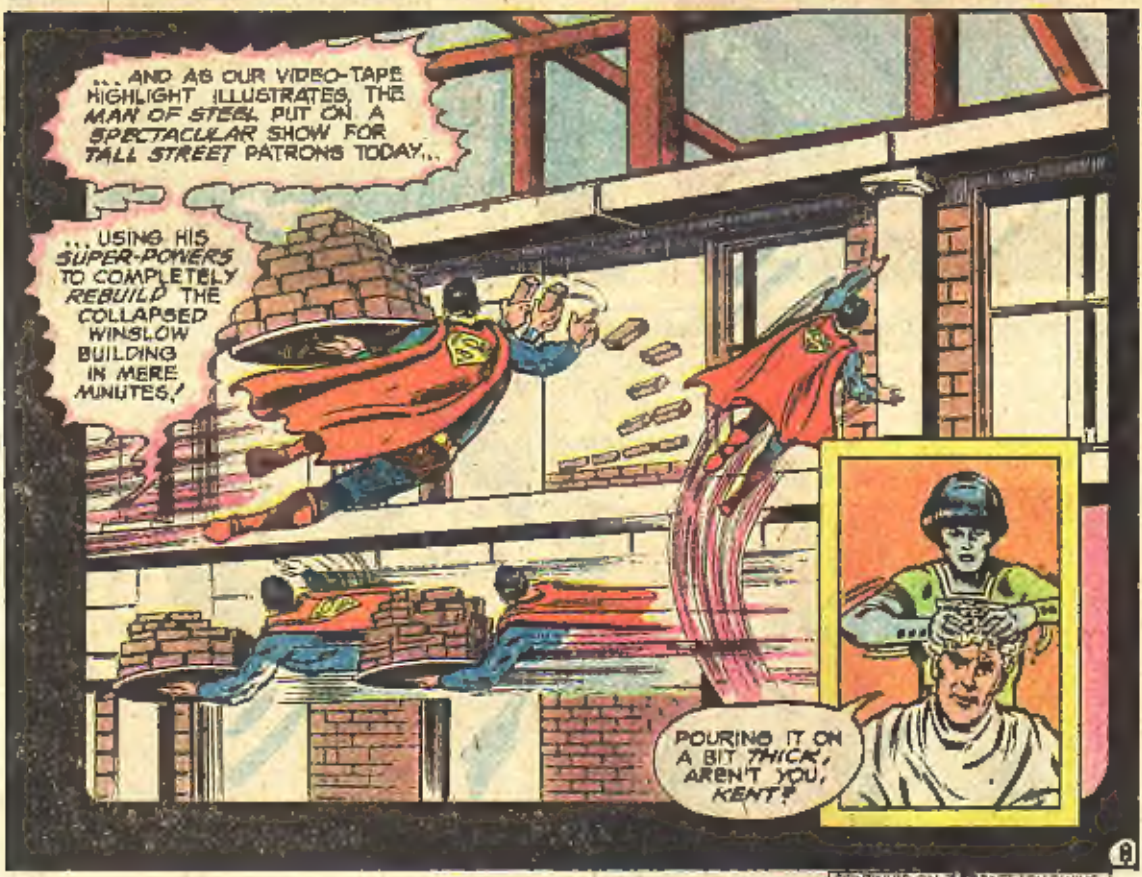

AND WHEN THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN ON THE LOBBY FLOOR...
MISS BLAKE-- WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN YOU WERE TRAPPED?
WAS SUPERMAN THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYERS?
HAVE YOU ANY PLANS TO MEET SUPERMAN AGAIN--IN PRIVATE?


ON ADVICE OF HER DOCTOR, MISS BLAKE WILL NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME!
BUT THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW...


...AND IN HER STATEMENT TO POLICE, ANGELA BLAKE SAID SHE ACCIDENTALLY BUMPED HER HEAD WHILE TAKING INVENTORY IN A WINSLOW BUILDING STOREROOM YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, FALLING UNCONSCIOUS--
--THEREBY REMAINING UNNOTICED IN THE PRE-DAWN EVACUATION!


THIS IS "NEFARIUM"--THE CODE-NAME LUTHOR HAS BESTOWED ON HIS CURRENT UNDERGROUND LAIR--WHERE HE WATCHES ANCHORMAN CLARK KENT'S NEWSCAST WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST...
MIRACULOUSLY, THE BASEMENT-LEVEL STOREROOM REMAINED INTACT BENEATH THE RUBBLE OF THE COLLAPSED BUILDING... AND EXCEPT FOR A FEW MINOR CUTS AND BRUISES, MS. BLAKE SURVIVED UNSCATHED!

"MIZZ" ANGELA BLAKE, EH? NOW I'M INTRIGUED!
CAPEK--FETCH ME THE PHONE BOOK!
?OHH!: KAREL--I TOLD YOU TO SHAMPOO MY SCALP--NOT SANDPAPER IT!


...AND AS OUR VIDEO-TAPE HIGHLIGHT ILLUSTRATES, THE MAN OF STEEL PUT ON A SPECTACULAR SHOW FOR TALL STREET PATRONS TODAY...
...USING HIS SUPER-POWERS TO COMPLETELY REBUILD THE COLLAPSED WINSLOW BUILDING IN MERE MINUTES!
POURING IT ON A BIT THICK, AREN'T YOU, KENT?
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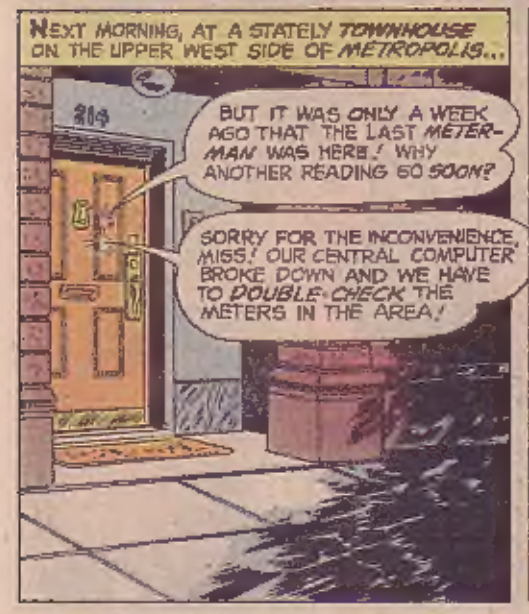
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

BLAKE ... BLAKE! NOW LET'S SEE-- ALBERT ... ALMA ... ALPHONSE...
HERE WE ARE-- BLAKE, ANGELA: 214 WEST 79TH STREET! NICE AREA--THE LADY MUST BE QUITE WELL-OFF!

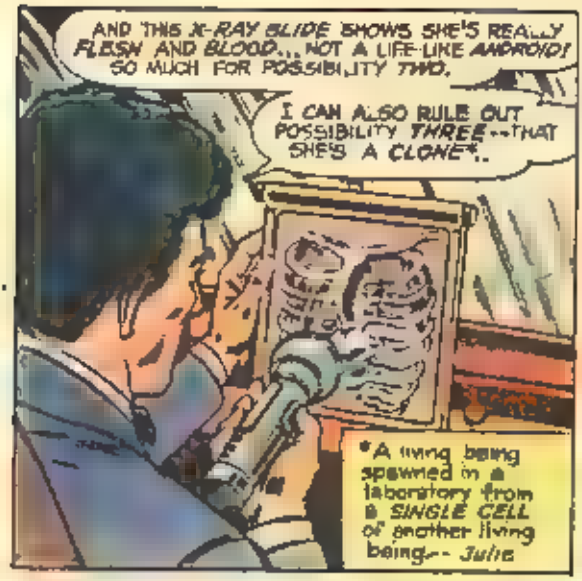
AH-CHOOO!
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU, KAREL--WHEN YOU BUFF THE SCALP--
--SKIP THE TALCUM POWDER!

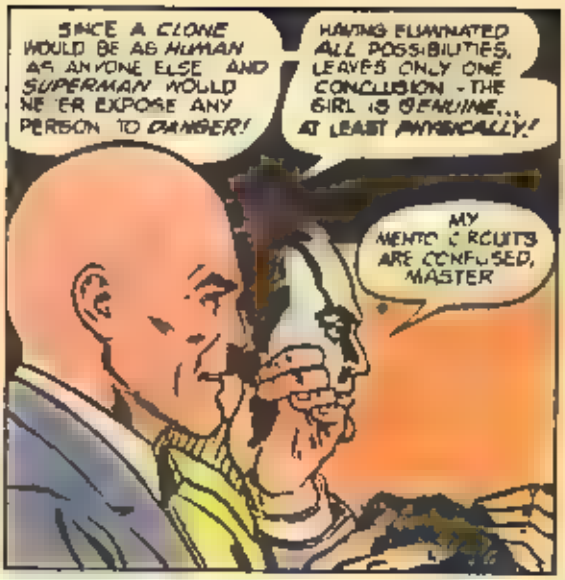

NEXT MORNING, AT A STATELY TOWNHOUSE ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE OF METROPOLIS...
214
BUT IT WAS ONLY A WEEK AGO THAT THE LAST METER-MAN WAS HERE! WHY ANOTHER READING SO SOON?
SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE, MISS! OUR CENTRAL COMPUTER BROKE DOWN AND WE HAVE TO DOUBLE-CHECK THE METERS IN THE AREA!

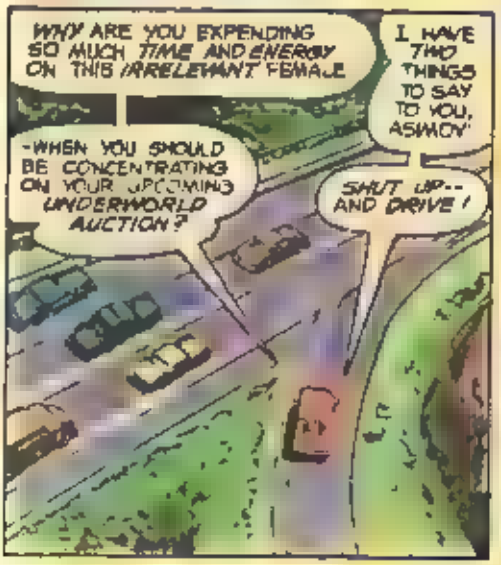
WELL, I MUST SAY YOU'RE MUCH NICER THAN THE LAST FELLOW YOUR COMPANY SENT BY HERE!
AND YOU ARE ONE OF THE MOST GRACIOUS CUSTOMERS IT'S BEEN MY PLEASURE TO SERVE, MISS... UH...
BLAKE! BUT I'D LOVE YOU TO CALL ME ANGELA!

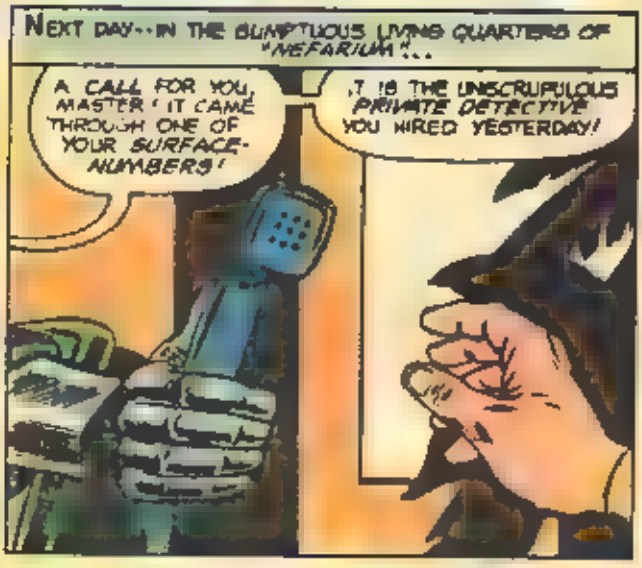
AND WHEN THE "READING" IS COMPLETED...
HA! SOMETIMES EVEN I FIND MYSELF IN AWE OF MY OWN GENIUS!
TO THINK THAT IN LESS THAN ONE MINUTE, I SUBJECTED ANGELA BLAKE TO A BATTERY OF PHYSICAL TESTS THAT WOULD REQUIRE A WEEK IN THE MOST ADVANCED HOSPITAL--

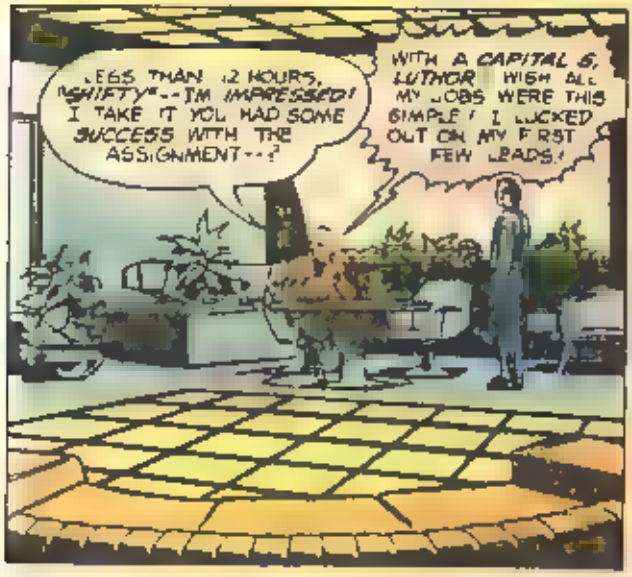
--SIMPLY BY USING MY PHYSI-PROBER-- CLEVERLY CAMOUFLAGED AS A FLASHLIGHT!
LET'S SEE NOW... HEARTBEAT AND RESPIRATION: NORMAL! BODY TEMPERATURE: NORMAL!
THAT RULES OUT THE LEAST INSPIRED POSSIBILITY: A DISGUISED ROBOT! ER-- NO OFFENSE, ASIMOV!

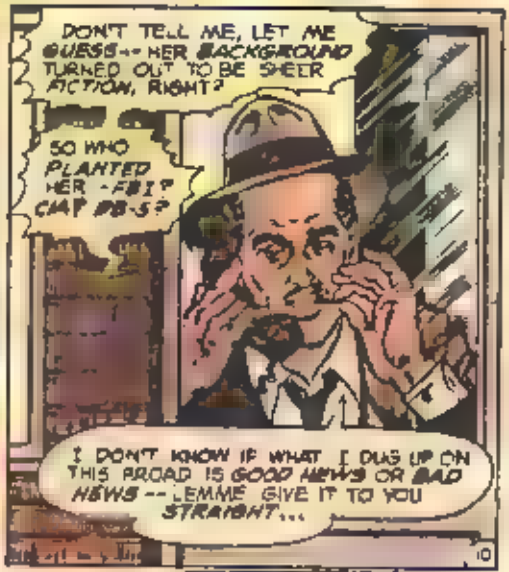

AND THIS X-RAY SLIDE SHOWS SHE'S REALLY FLESH AND BLOOD... NOT A LIFE-LIKE ANDROID! SO MUCH FOR POSSIBILITY TWO.
I CAN ALSO RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THREE--THAT SHE'S A CLONE*..
*A living being spawned in a laboratory from a SINGLE CELL of another living being-- Julie

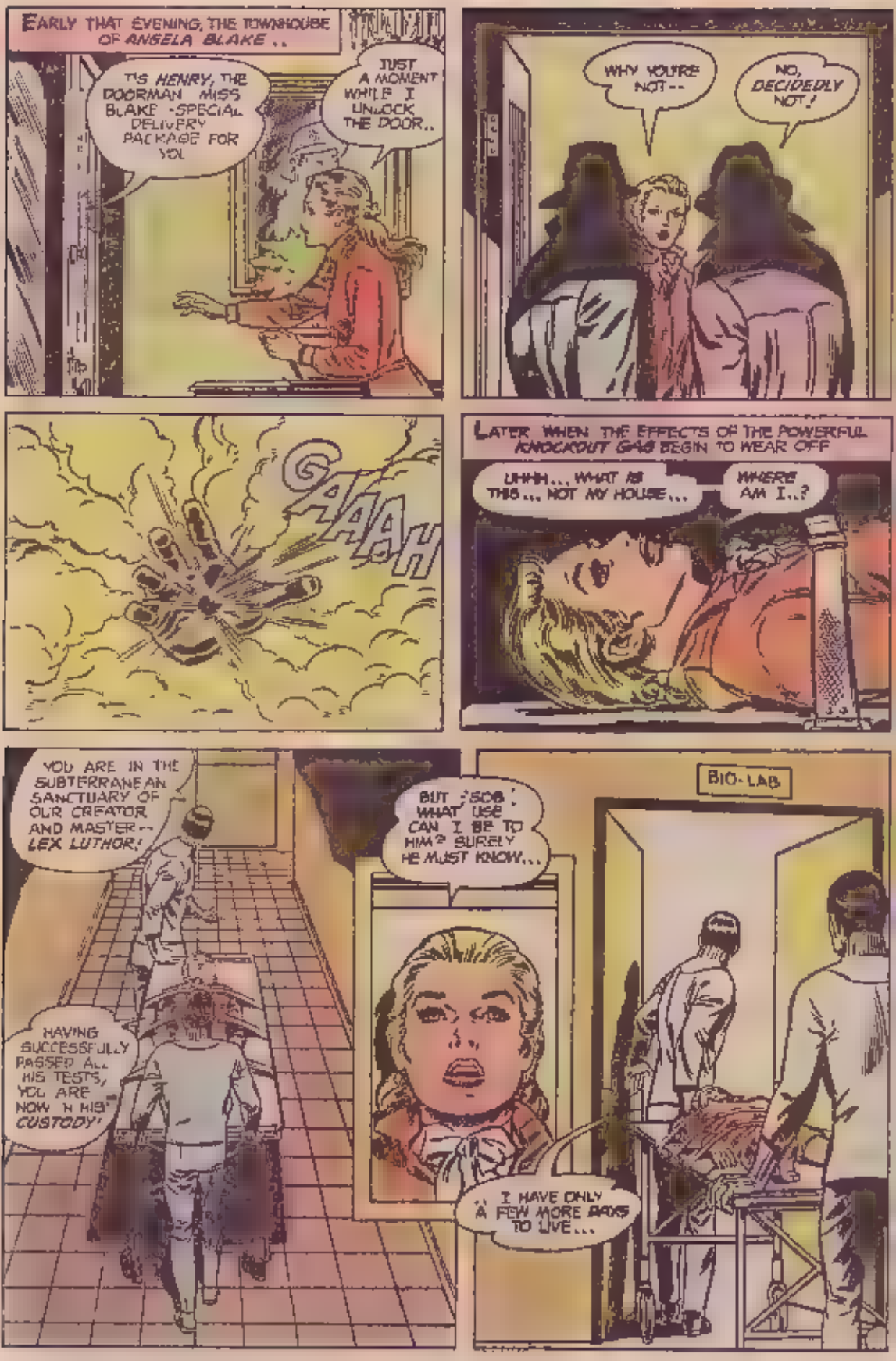

SINCE A CLONE WOULD BE AS HUMAN AS ANYONE ELSE AND SUPERMAN WOULD NE'ER EXPOSE ANY PERSON TO DANGER!
HAVING ELIMINATED ALL POSSIBILITIES, LEAVES ONLY ONE CONCLUSION - THE GIRL IS GENUINE... AT LEAST PHYSICALLY!
MY MENTO CIRCUITS ARE CONFUSED, MASTER

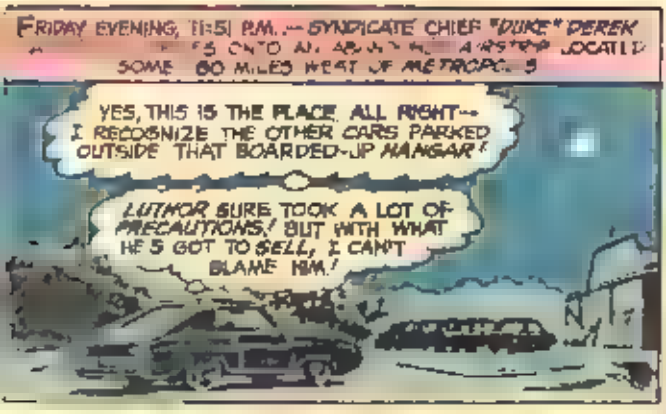

WHY ARE YOU EXPENDING SO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY ON THIS IRRELEVANT FEMALE
I HAVE TWO THINGS TO SAY TO YOU, ASIMOV!
-WHEN YOU SHOULD BE CONCENTRATING ON YOUR UPCOMING UNDERWORLD AUCTION?
SHUT UP-- AND DRIVE!

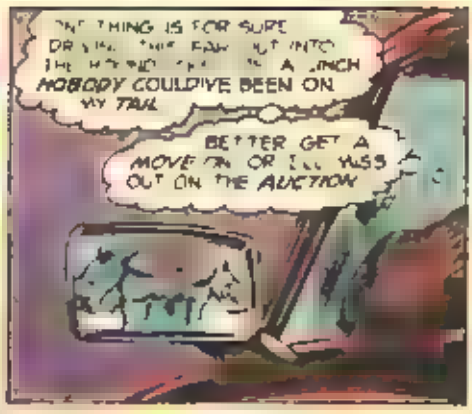

NEXT DAY--IN THE SUMPTUOUS LIVING QUARTERS OF "NEFARIUM"...
A CALL FOR YOU, MASTER! IT CAME THROUGH ONE OF YOUR SURFACE-NUMBERS!
IT IS THE UNSCRUPULOUS PRIVATE DETECTIVE YOU HIRED YESTERDAY!

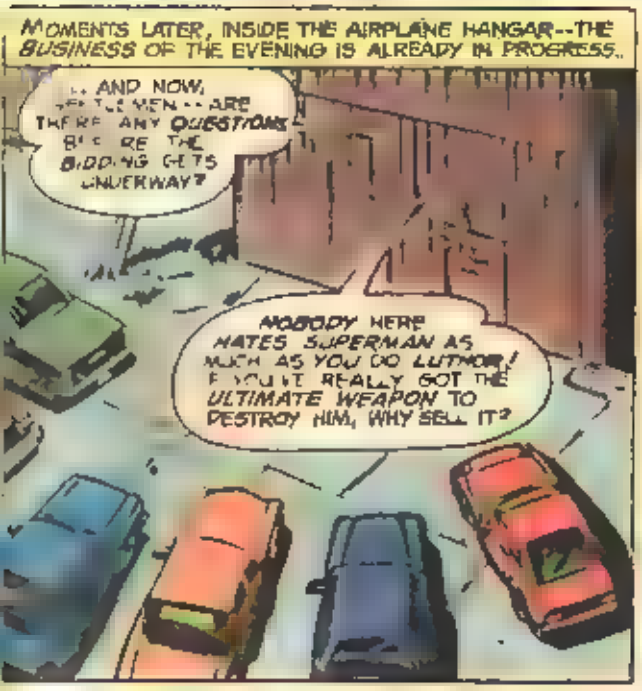

LESS THAN 12 HOURS, "SHIFTY"--I'M IMPRESSED! I TAKE IT YOU HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH THE ASSIGNMENT--?
WITH A CAPITAL G, LUTHOR! WISH ALL MY JOBS WERE THIS SIMPLE! I LUCKED OUT ON MY FIRST FEW LEADS!

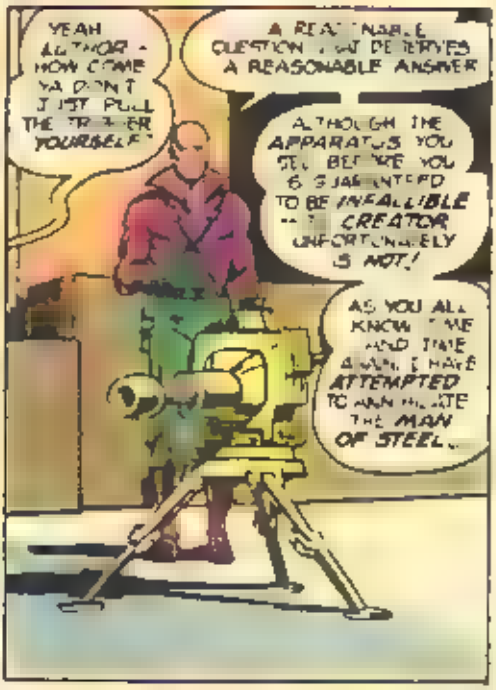

DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS-- HER BACKGROUND TURNED OUT TO BE SHEER FICTION, RIGHT?
SO WHO PLANTED HER - FBI? CIA? DB-5?
I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT I DUG UP ON THIS BROAD IS GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS -- LEMME GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT...


EARLY THAT EVENING, THE TOWNHOUSE OF ANGELA BLAKE..
'TIS HENRY, THE DOORMAN MISS BLAKE -SPECIAL DELIVERY PACKAGE FOR YOU
JUST A MOMENT WHILE I UNLOCK THE DOOR..
WHY YOU'RE NOT--
NO, DECIDEDLY NOT!
GAAAH
LATER WHEN THE EFFECTS OF THE POWERFUL KNOCKOUT GAS BEGIN TO WEAR OFF
UHHH... WHAT IS THIS... NOT MY HOUSE...
WHERE AM I..?
YOU ARE IN THE SUBTERRANEAN SANCTUARY OF OUR CREATOR AND MASTER-- LEX LUTHOR!
HAVING SUCCESSFULLY PASSED ALL HIS TESTS, YOU ARE NOW IN HIS CUSTODY!
BUT ;SOB; WHAT USE CAN I BE TO HIM? SURELY HE MUST KNOW...
I HAVE ONLY A FEW MORE DAYS TO LIVE...
BIO-LAB

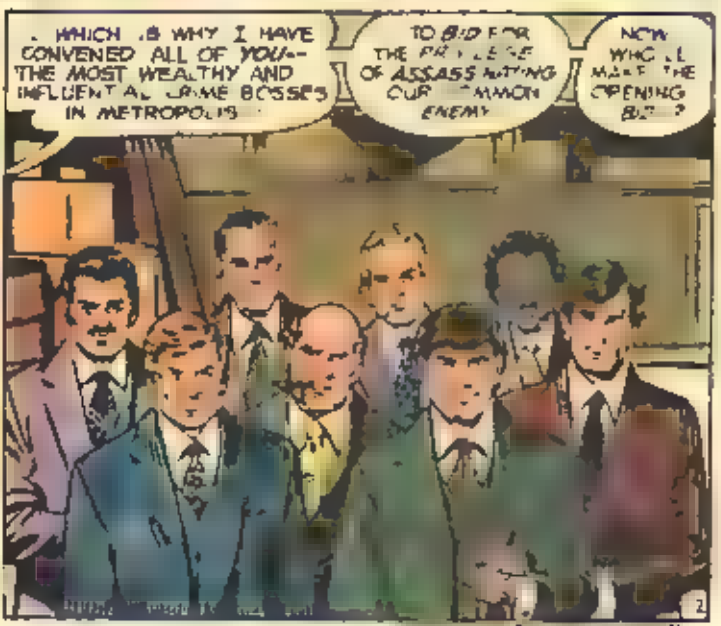

FRIDAY EVENING, 11:51 P.M.--SYNDICATE CHIEF "DUKE" DEREK
SOME 80 MILES WEST OF METROPOLIS
YES, THIS IS THE PLACE. ALL RIGHT-- I RECOGNIZE THE OTHER CARS PARKED OUTSIDE THAT BOARDED-UP HANGAR!
LUTHOR SURE TOOK A LOT OF PRECAUTIONS! BUT WITH WHAT HE'S GOT TO SELL, I CAN'T BLAME HIM!

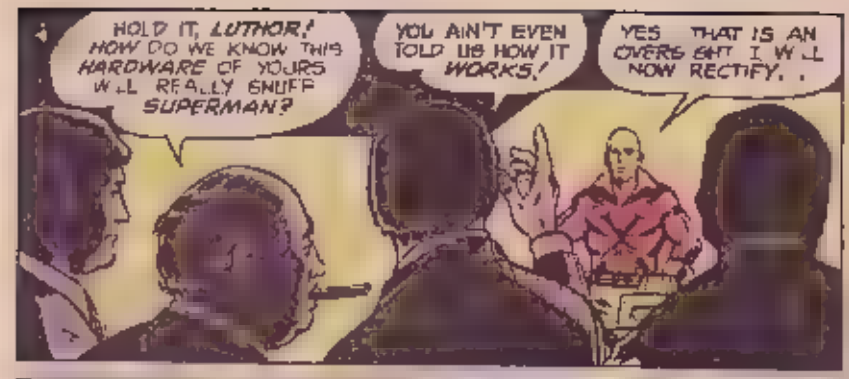

ONE THING IS FOR SURE DRIVING THIS FAR OUT INTO THE WOODS AT 3 A.M. NOBODY COULD'VE BEEN ON MY TAIL
BETTER GET A MOVE ON OR I'LL MISS OUT ON THE AUCTION


MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE AIRPLANE HANGAR--THE BUSINESS OF THE EVENING IS ALREADY IN PROGRESS..
AND NOW, GENTLEMEN--ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE THE BIDDING GETS UNDERWAY?
NOBODY HERE HATES SUPERMAN AS MUCH AS YOU DO LUTHOR! IF YOU'VE REALLY GOT THE ULTIMATE WEAPON TO DESTROY HIM, WHY SELL IT?

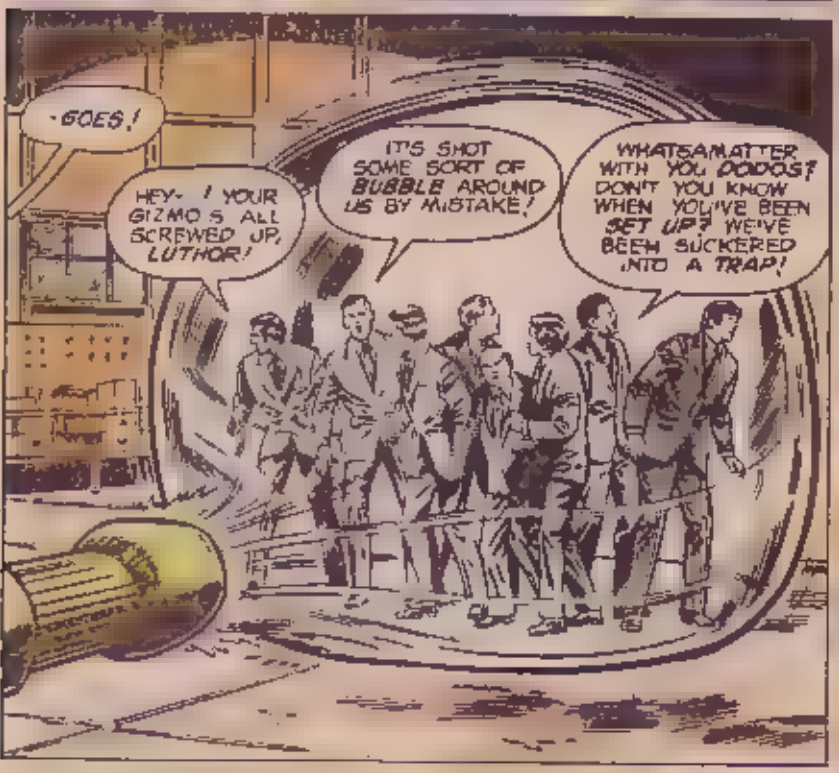

YEAH LUTHOR - HOW COME YA DON'T JUST PULL THE TRIGGER YOURSELF?
A REASONABLE QUESTION THAT DESERVES A REASONABLE ANSWER
ALTHOUGH THE APPARATUS YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS GUARANTEED TO BE INFALLIBLE -- MY CREATOR UNFORTUNATELY IS NOT!
AS YOU ALL KNOW, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ANNIHILATE THE MAN OF STEEL..

ONLY TO SUFFER AGONIZING FAILURE AT EVERY TURN! AT LONG LAST I HAVE DETERMINED WHY!
MY OBSESSIVE HATRED WAS HANDICAPPING MY EFFICIENCY-- ROBBING ME OF THE VITAL EDGE I NEEDED FOR VICTORY!
MY DIFFICULT BUT NECESSARY DECISION IS TO PASS ON THE ROLE OF EXECUTIONER

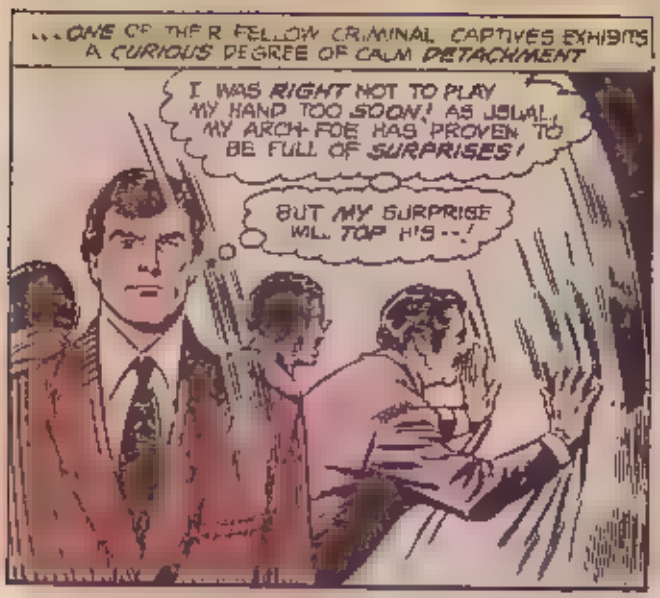

WHICH IS WHY I HAVE CONVENED ALL OF YOU-- THE MOST WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL CRIME BOSSES IN METROPOLIS
TO BID FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF ASSASSINATING OUR COMMON ENEMY
NOW WHO'LL MAKE THE OPENING BID?


HOLD IT, LUTHOR! HOW DO WE KNOW THIS HARDWARE OF YOURS WILL REALLY SNUFF SUPERMAN?
YOU AIN'T EVEN TOLD US HOW IT WORKS!
YES THAT IS AN OVERSIGHT I WILL NOW RECTIFY. .

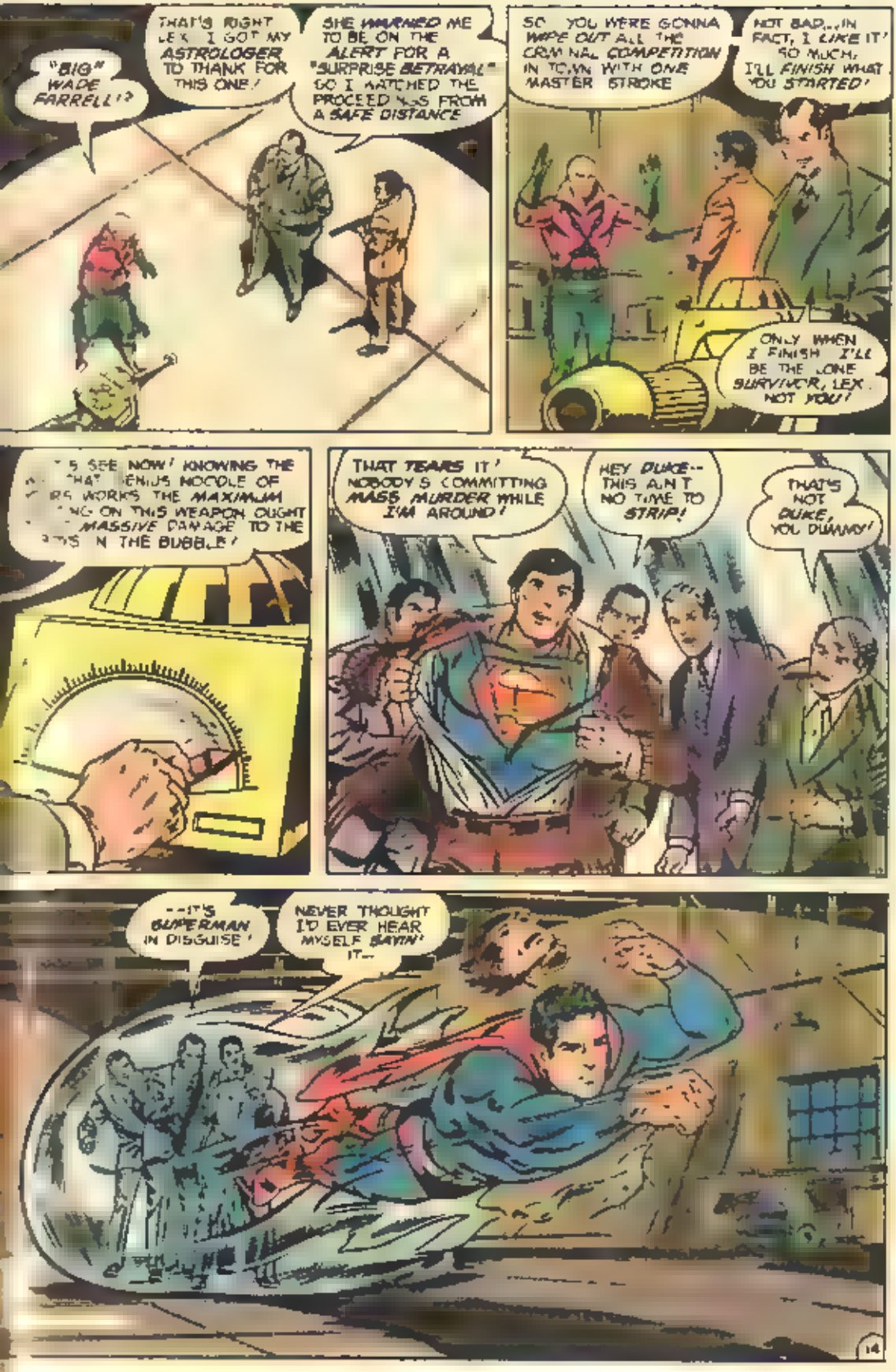
BY MEANS OF AN ACTUAL DEMONSTRATION!
READY HERE--


-GOES!
HEY- ! YOUR GIZMO'S ALL SCREWED UP, LUTHOR!
IT'S SHOT SOME SORT OF BUBBLE AROUND US BY MISTAKE!
WHATSAMATTER WITH YOU DODOS? DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'VE BEEN SET UP? WE'VE BEEN SUCKERED INTO A TRAP!

I'LL BLAST US OUTA HERE--!
NO GO! IT SOAKS UP BULLETS LIKE A SPONGE!
THE HARDER WE PUSH --THE MORE IT PUSHES BACK!
BUT WHILE ANGER AND PANIC RUN RAMPANT AMONG THE CONFINED CROOKS .


...ONE OF THE R FELLOW CRIMINAL CAPTIVES EXHIBITS A CURIOUS DEGREE OF CALM DETACHMENT
I WAS RIGHT NOT TO PLAY MY HAND TOO SOON! AS USUAL, MY ARCH-FOE HAS PROVEN TO BE FULL OF SURPRISES!
BUT MY SURPRISE WILL TOP HIS --!

VERY TIDY, LUTHOR! SUCH A DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE PLOY YET SO EFFECTIVE!
EH -?


"BIG" WADE FARRELL!?
THAT'S RIGHT LEX, I GOT MY ASTROLOGER TO THANK FOR THIS ONE!
SHE WARNED ME TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR A "SURPRISE BETRAYAL" SO I WATCHED THE PROCEEDINGS FROM A SAFE DISTANCE
SO YOU WERE GONNA WIPE OUT ALL THE CRIMINAL COMPETITION IN TOWN WITH ONE MASTER STROKE
NOT BAD...IN FACT, I LIKE IT! SO MUCH, I'LL FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!
ONLY WHEN I FINISH I'LL BE THE LONE SURVIVOR, LEX... NOT YOU!
...S SEE NOW! KNOWING THE ... "HA" ...ENIUS NOODLE OF ... RS WORKS THE MAXIMUM ... NG ON THIS WEAPON OUGHT ... MASSIVE DAMAGE TO THE ...S IN THE BUBBLE!
THAT TEARS IT! NOBODY'S COMMITTING MASS MURDER WHILE I'M AROUND!
HEY DUKE-- THIS AIN'T NO TIME TO STRIP!
THAT'S NOT DUKE, YOU DUMMY!
--IT'S SUPERMAN IN DISGUISE!
NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER HEAR MYSELF SAYIN' IT--

- BUT THIS TIME I'M ROOTIN' FOR SUPERMAN!
HE'S BROKEN THE BUBBLE-- LET'S MAKE A RUN FOR IT
AS THE WEAPON'S FULL POWER BLAST SPLASHES HARMLESSLY OFF AN INVULNERABLE CHEST OF STEEL
YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING, SUPERMAN?! NOT EVEN A -
OOOFF!
SAY GOODNIGHT WADE
IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY THE ACTION ACE IS IGNORING THE DEADLY MACHINE GUN FIRE COMING LUTHOR'S WAY
YOU'LL HAVE TO WONDER JUST A BIT LONGER
A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH- AND THE FLEEING KINGPINS ARE KNOCKED OFF THEIR FEET -
WHOOOSHH!!
-AND OUT OF THEIR SENSES!
?!? Y-YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ;UHHHH!;
-DEAD, I BELIEVE HE WAS GOING TO SAY,' BUT WE BOTH KNOW BETTER, DON'T WE, LUTHOR?
BY YOUR FAILURE TO INTERVENE IN MY BEHALF, SUPERMAN... I CAN ONLY ASSUME YOU KNEW THE "LUTHOR" IN FRONT OF YOU WAS A ROBOT!
YES, MY X-RAY VISION REVEALED IT THE MOMENT I JOINED THE AUDIENCE, IMPERSONATING AN UNDERWORLD HEAVY!
BUT I MUST ADMIT -
15

--THIS TIME YOU'VE *REALLY* STUMPED ME, *LUTHOR!*

WHEN I FIRST GOT WIND OF THIS ALLEGED *AUCTION* OF YOURS, I THOUGHT I WAS PREPARED FOR *ANYTHING*...

BUT NOT WHAT I SAW TONIGHT! THE *MAXIMUM BLAST* FROM YOUR WEAPON WAS MERELY A LOW-GRADE *TELEPORT BEAM*--

--DESIGNED TO INSTANTLY *DELIVER* ALL THOSE CROOKS TO *METROPOLIS*-- ALTHOUGH IT DIDN'T WORK ON *ME* AT ALL!

IT WOULD HAVE DEPOSITED THEM ON THE FRONT STEPS OF *POLICE HEADQUARTERS!*

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D BELIEVE THE SOLE *PURPOSE* OF MY OPERATION TONIGHT WAS TO *DELIVER* ALL THOSE DESPICABLE *CRIMINALS* INTO THE ARMS OF THE *LAW?*

NO .. I DIDN'T THINK SO. BUT IN TIME, YOU *WILL*, *SUPERMAN*... YOU *WILL* SQUAWK!!

LUTHOR MUST BE *SELF-DESTRUCTING* HIS ROBOT BY REMOTE-CONTROL!

JUST AS WELL! THIS *GOOD DEED* OF HIS HAS LEFT ME... *SPEECHLESS!*

LATE EDITION

DAILY

HAS LUTHOR GONE GOOD?

SUPERMAN EYE-WITNESSES AMAZING TURNAROUND

BY CLARK KENT

I A MAN HAS TO *START OVER* SOMEWHERE, MISS BLAKE!

I I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, MR. LUTHOR! SO EVEN IF YOU *HAVE* FINALLY DONE A *GOOD DEED*... WHAT ABOUT ALL THE *EVIL* YOU'VE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DOWN THROUGH THE *YEARS?*

BUT *WHY* IS IT SO *IMPORTANT* TO YOU THAT I BELIEVE YOU'VE *REFORMED?*

AND *MOST* OF ALL --*WHEN* WILL YOU TELL ME *WHY* YOU'RE *KEEPING* ME HERE?

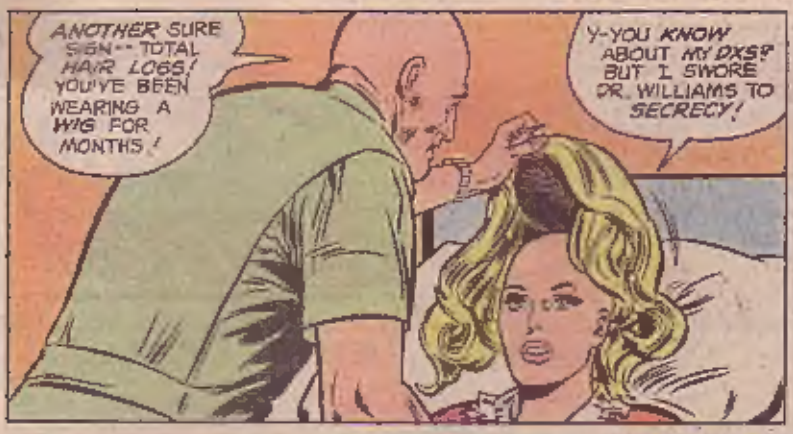
THE TIME IS *NOW*, MISS BLAKE! *THINK BACK*... TO THE NIGHT *BEFORE* MY *STOCK MARKET* CRASH OF SEVERAL DAYS AGO--

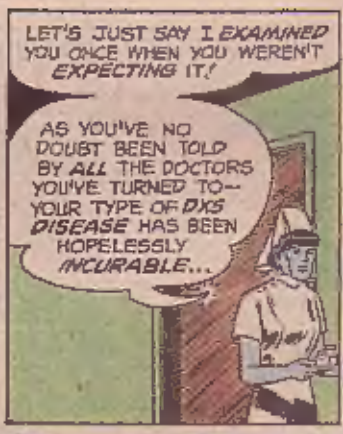
YOU TOLD THE PRESS YOU *PASSED OUT* WHEN YOU "BUMPED" YOUR HEAD! THAT WAS A *LIE!*

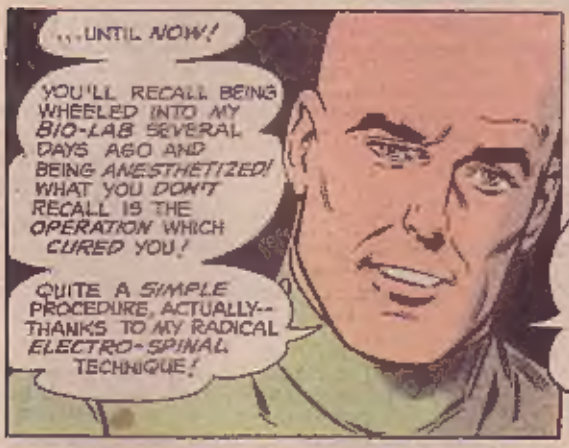
IN *REALITY*, YOU SLIPPED INTO A TRANSIENT LIGHT COMA-- ONE OF THE TELLTALE SIGNS YOUR *TERMINAL ILLNESS* HAD REACHED ITS *FINAL* STAGE!

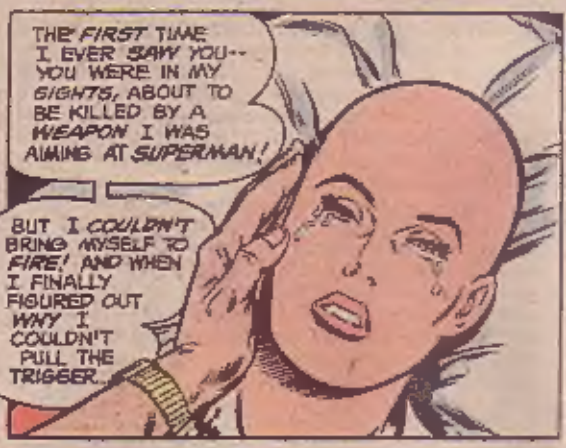
6

TURN PAGE FOR CONTINUATION


ANOTHER SURE SIGN -- TOTAL HAIR LOSS! YOU'VE BEEN WEARING A WIG FOR MONTHS!
Y-YOU KNOW ABOUT MY DXS? BUT I SWORE DR. WILLIAMS TO SECRECY!


LET'S JUST SAY I EXAMINED YOU ONCE WHEN YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING IT!
AS YOU'VE NO DOUBT BEEN TOLD BY ALL THE DOCTORS YOU'VE TURNED TO-- YOUR TYPE OF DXS DISEASE HAS BEEN HOPELESSLY INCURABLE...


...UNTIL NOW!
YOU'LL RECALL BEING WHEELED INTO MY BIO-LAB SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND BEING ANESTHETIZED! WHAT YOU DON'T RECALL IS THE OPERATION WHICH CURED YOU!
QUITE A SIMPLE PROCEDURE, ACTUALLY-- THANKS TO MY RADICAL ELECTRO-SPINAL TECHNIQUE!


THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW YOU-- YOU WERE IN MY SIGHTS, ABOUT TO BE KILLED BY A WEAPON I WAS AIMING AT SUPERMAN!
BUT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO FIRE! AND WHEN I FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHY I COULDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER...

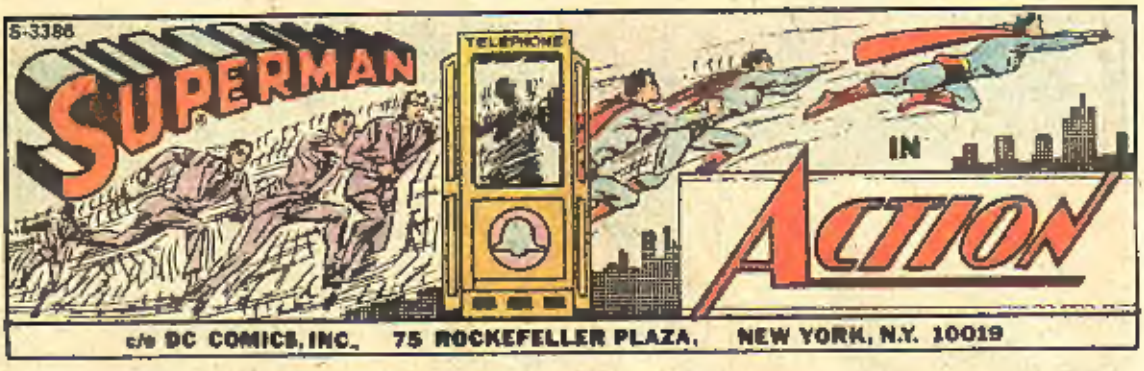
...I REFUSED TO BELIEVE YOU WERE REAL! I CHECKED YOU OUT EVERY WAY IMAGINABLE... I HIRED A DETECTIVE TO GO THROUGH EVERY FACET OF YOUR BACKGROUND...
...BUT YOU PASSED EVERY TEST!
I'VE PROVEN BEYOND ANY DOUBT--
17

--YOU ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOU APPEAR TO BE, ANGELA BLAKE -- THE WOMAN I WAS BORN TO LOVE!
I'VE BECOME A NEW MAN, ANGELA ... ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

LUTHOR... IN LOVE? LUTHOR... TURNING HIS BACK ON CRIME? LUTHOR... TEAMING UP WITH HIS NEW ALLY-- SUPERMAN? LEARN MORE NEXT ISSUE, WHEN

LUTHOR FIGHTS FOR GOOD!

ON SALE JUNE 12TH! IT'S A DATE!



Dear Action Aces:

There is nothing in literature that I hate more than a shabbily-done story involving children. There is nothing in literature that I enjoy more than seeing children well-used, whether it is Stephen King's *The Shining*, Harlan Ellison's "Jeffty is Five" or Cary Bates' latest *ACTION* story, "The Creature That Charmed Children". I enjoyed it all very much right up to the last page where I saw that I would have to wait till next month for the conclusion.

I'm glad to see Clark Kent appearing so much these days. After all, Clark is *Superman*, so it's Clark's magazine too. Anyway, the invitation from Lana for dinner was amusing, especially when I saw Clark making the salad.

Congratulations to Curt Swan! Page 9, panel 5: a bag of groceries and no big stalk of celery sticking out. This is definitely a breakthrough in grocery bag art! It may well change the course of history.

Y'know...Jorlan *is* kinda cute...

BARB LONG
Route 3, Box 161
Blue Springs, MS 38828

Maybe, Barb, but what would your new hubbie think of sharing you with an oversized Kryptonian teddy bear?

By the way, the missing stalk of celery may not change the course of history, but it certainly changed the course of Clark's salad...which didn't have any celery in it!

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Never in my mind would I expect Cary Bates to come up with a *Superman* story I would enjoy so much—but he sure fooled me. "The Creature That Charmed Children" was good—really good, if I may heap mounds of praise on Cary.

For instance, scan pages 2 and 3. It brought real joy in my heart to see the class walk out on Miss Butterworth. I experienced loads of vicarious pleasure witnessing a group of students walk out on an obviously overbearing, obnoxious teacher. Oh, wish fulfillment at its finest!

And Lana Lang making a play for Clark Kent! Cary, you really came up with a charming melodrama, acted out with utmost precision and grace, whose only drawback was some clichéd dialogue. The small insights into Clark's mind like "I'd rather be out hunting the Mesmerizer...instead of standing here making a salad" were ideally placed and came across with startling impact. Not to mention the fact that they gave you that *déjà vu* feeling, practically reliving those days back in Smallville.

The main element of the plot, Drn-Zu's brainchild Jorlan, showed a real touch of genius. Jorlan represents the perfect antihero in many respects, but the facet of his personality I admired most was that he was for the kids. Children these days have lots of heroes (*Superman* being the prime example), but they always have to share these heroes with other age-groups and that sometimes detracts from the qualities a kid's hero needs in order to identify with children on a full-time basis. Jorlan is the quintessential embodiment of that perfect hero because he believes in children and children alone, something to which I don't think any other super-hero can lay claim (if one could call Jorlan a super-hero).

How sadly ironic it is that Jorlan's true mission is one of horror and deceit, making him a curse to the children he seems to truly love. What makes this even worse is that Jorlan is being manipulated by adults, whose world would probably be a whole lot better if they paid more attention to the kids in the first place.

STEPHEN SETTER
356 Alumni Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

We'd just like to point out to any students who might want to emulate Miss Butterworth's class that it wouldn't be wise...unless you can get Superman to vouch for you to the principal!

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I still don't get it. In all respects, Jorlan looked like a cross between a gorilla and a baboon with the capability to rend *Superman* limb from limb. Yet it, like a myriad of past Kryptonian adversaries, only possessed powers comparable to the Man of Steel's. How were things set up on Krypton? Were all men and beasts created so equal?

JEFFREY LOWNDES
809 Sunset Street
Scranton, PA 18509

To paraphrase George Orwell's Animal Farm, *"Some Kryptonians were created more equal than others" and Superman has come up against some creatures from his home world which were more than his match—the flame dragon is one which comes to mind—but obviously the Jorlan is "equally equal" to Superman, just as his human Kryptonian foes are!*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

After 23 years of reading your books, I think I've finally caught you on something. In 1962, a reader asked if *Superman* could see through his eyelids and you replied that he could. In *ACTION #505*, *Superman* is trying to x-ray vision the Jorlan and is quite unsuccessful. Now if *Superman* can see through his own super-skin, why couldn't he see through the hide of this Kryptonian beast?

G.B.
Owings Mills, MD

Though Superman thinks there is no trace of lead in Jorlan's hide, it's obvious that he's been somehow mis-"lead"!

* * * * *

ACTION ANNOUNCEMENT!! Beginning next issue, this magazine will cost you an extra dime—60¢! But it will be well worth the extra money as we'll be adding eight more new pages of story and art to all our 32-page magazines! That means every issue of ACTION COMICS will have 26 pages of stories (plus the ever-popular lettercol). And filling out this magazine will be the much-asked-for return of Air Wave! Then, in a few months, The Atom will be alternating with our rider of the air waves. You won't want to miss any of the action beginning next month, so make sure to put away that extra dime!

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